

I grew up in the radio industry. My father was in radio for more than 40 years before he retired. I learned everything I know about radio from him. As a small market radio broadcaster, I feel that there are certain things I must do for my community in order to maintain a certain level of credibility in my community. These things are not mandates from the FCC, rather, instincts or unwritten commitments that I agreed to undertake when I bought these radio stations.

My market is small by any standard and my audience is as conservative as any. If any of my employees were to be indecent (by my standards or my community's standards) the actions taken would be immediate and forceful. I do not feel that recording and archiving my programming makes any sense at all. As a member of local civic groups and as a community leader, I would be able to quote verbatim any "misdeed" committed by my on-air staff within hours of any alleged infraction. Let me restate that any and all indecent comments would be dealt with immediately. I do not need a 60 or 90 day taped back-up to confirm what dozens of friends and or listeners would tell me within minutes.

For the FCC to mandate an expensive archival system at this time may just be the straw that breaks the back of many small market broadcasters. This is in no ones best interest. There are enough mandates on broadcasters already.....not to mention the onslaught of competing voices currently being proposed. Instead of dictating how broadcasters should cover themselves for infractions that do not take place in most radio stations, perhaps the FCC and Congress should debate how broadcasters will be able to continue a legendary service to America with all these new forms of competition and regulation.